

CLASSIFICATION <u>CONFIDENTIAL</u>		25X1	
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	REPORT		
TOPIC <u>Information on the Gotha Tank Regiment of KVP Division Erfurt</u>			
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REMARKS			
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1. The tank regiment in Gotha, also referred to as C-Kommando, was located at the former Flak-Kaserne in Gotha on the highway to Ohrdruf. The regiment belonged to the 1st Motorized Bereitschaft in Erfurt, which was subordinate to Territorialverwaltung Sued in Leipzig. TV Sued was under the command of Major General Vogel. The component units of the 1st Motorized Bereitschaft were distributed as follows:
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|---------------------------|---|
| Headquarters | Erfurt, Loserfeld Kaserne |
| headquarters company | " " " |
| motor transport section | Erfurt, Henne Kaserne |
| motor transport school | " " " |
| motor vehicle repair shop | Erfurt |
| medical section | Gotha, hospital, Ohrdruffer Strasse |
| bakery company | Gotha, Buergeraue |
| reconnaissance battalion | Erfurt, Henne Kaserne |
| signal battalion | Erfurt, presumably Henne Kaserne |
| engineer battalion | Muehlhausen, Weisses Haus |
| AT battalion | Erfurt, Henne Kaserne |
| AAA battalion | Gotha, Buergeraue |
| mortar battalion | Erfurt, Henne Kaserne |
| infantry regiment | Gotha, Flak Kaserne |
| infantry regiment | Muehlhausen, Goermar Kaserne |
| infantry regiment | Gera |
| artillery regiment | Erfurt, Henne Kaserne |
| tank regiment | Gotha, Flak Kaserne, Ohrdruffer Strasse |

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2. The tank regiment in Gotha was organized as follows:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	30		
maintenance company	6	10	50
medical company	2	5	5
supply platoon		5	15
headquarters company	6	8	30
1st through 5th Tank Co's each	5	10	37
SP gun battalion	16	14	45

Almost all of the crews of the tank regiment were trained personnel that had come from Zeithain and Spremberg. Some assistant gunners and the radio operators

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of the signal platoon of the headquarters company were still missing.
The maintenance company was organized as follows:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	4	2	2
1st platoon	1	3	12
2nd platoon	1	3	18
3rd platoon		2	18

The headquarters company consisted of the headquarters, a reconnaissance, a signal, an engineer, and a tank platoon. The tank companies consisted of a headquarters with one command tank and 3 platoons with 3 tanks to each platoon. The SP gun battalion consisted of a headquarters with 4 officers, 2 NCOs, 6 EM, and 2 SP guns in addition to 3 companies of 4 officers, 4 NCOs, and 13 men each. Each company consisted of 2 platoons with 2 SP guns to each platoon and 1 SP gun assigned to the company headquarters. ²

3. Officers assigned to the tank regiment included:

Major Holzstein	CO, promoted to major about mid-December 1953; H. allegedly came from the War Academy in Moscow; he replaced Major Kalkofe who returned to Zeithain on 1 December 1953.
Captain Zechlin	Deputy CO, who arrived together with Major Holzstein
Captain Block	Chief-of-staff
Major Becker	Deputy CO, in charge of supply matters; assigned to the unit on 1 December 1953. He previously was deputy supply officer at the headquarters of Division Erfurt.
Senior Lieutenant Richter	Ordnance officer
Junior Lieutenant Hertel	CO of the maintenance company
Lieutenant Sawo	CO of the headquarters company

4. The regiment was equipped with 17 model SU-76 SP guns, which had already been used during World War II. The guns arrived from the SP Gun Officers' School at Erfurt. The three T-34/76 tanks which were also available, were old and worn out equipment and could only be used for training purposes. Source learned from the CO of the maintenance company that the equipment of the regiment was to be brought to authorized strength in the course of January 1954. ³

5. Motor vehicle equipment available to the regiment included 6 model H 3 A trucks,

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3 model M 3 armored personnel carriers, new equipment; 2 model Bobby armored scout cars; 1 model Granit 27 Phaenomen ambulance; 1 model G 5 tank truck with trailer; 1 model ZIS 150 tank truck with trailer; 6 model BMW sedans; and 1 model ZIS 150 repair shop truck with battery station. Part of the motor vehicle equipment was not fully serviceable. The motor vehicle equipment of the unit was to be brought to authorized strength in January 1954. ⁴

6. About 2 percent of the unit belonged to the 1936 class, 20 percent each to the 1935 and 1933 classes, 40 percent to the 1934 class, while 18 percent belonged to older classes. About 88 percent of the unit had served less than three years, 10 percent from three to five years, and 2 percent more than 5 years. About 15 percent of the regiment came from Saxony/Anhalt, 10 percent from Saxony, 65 percent from Thuringia, 5 percent from Mecklenburg, 3 percent from Brandenburg, and 2 percent from Berlin. About 15 percent of the unit followed the SED line, 25 percent were indifferent, 35 percent were secret opponents of the regime, while 25 percent voiced their opposition openly. The morale of the soldiers was rather poor, many of them had previously belonged to fire brigades, factory police, and the HVDVP, and were transferred to the KVP without their consent. Other soldiers who had attended the NCO School at Zeithain were discontent because they had not been promoted. Moreover, the soldiers

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resented that they were given too few passes. News on the higher standard of living in West Germany also contributed to the low morale among the soldiers. A Soviet Lieutenant Colonel and a Major were attached as advisers to the regiment.

7. Although the soldiers had already undergone basic training, the new training year which started on 1 December 1953 again began with basic infantry training. The current training year was scheduled to be completed on 30 September 1954. In contrast to the infantry unit stationed at an installation adjacent to the tank unit, no night exercises or alert practices were held by the tank regiment in December 1953.
8. On 1 December 1953, an order went into effect according to which service colors had to be worn by members of regiments or independent battalions.⁵
9. Source learned that the Infantry Officers' School was located at the Loeberfeld Kaserne in Erfurt, the SP Gun Officers' School at the Kaserne am Steigerwald in Erfurt, the Administration Officers' School at Petersberg, and the Tank Officers' School at the Steigerwald Kaserne in Erfurt.⁶
10. In the fall of 1953, it was announced at the Tank Officers' School at Grossenhain that training would be conducted along uniform lines by the Soviet Army, the satellite armies, and the KVP. The new training manuals issued by the East German Ministry of the Interior contained typical Soviet drawings.⁷

25X1 1. Comment. It is believed that these data on the distribution of the component units of Division Erfurt are correct. The report confirms that the Tank and SP Gun Regiment is located in Gotha and not, as previously assumed, in Gera. So far, an independent mortar battalion has not existed with KVP infantry divisions. Only one KVP deserter stated in October 1953 that a mortar battalion equipped with 122-mm mortars existed in Halle. There is a possibility that mortar battalions functioning as organic components of the division artillery will be attached to all KVP infantry divisions. This might be the first step in an intended separation of the previous mixed artillery regiments into one gun and one howitzer regiment each. This would be one more step in the direction of the Soviet pattern.

25X1 2. Comment. The tank and SP gun regiment of Division Erfurt has almost exactly the same strength as the corresponding regiment of Division Prenzlau, i.e. slightly more than 500 men. The report confirms that the tank regiment in Gotha was organized from personnel made available by the tank instruction regiments in Zeithain and Spremberg. The data on the organization of the regiments agree with previous information. The regiment is organized along Soviet lines.

25X1 3. Comment. So far no tank shipments to Gotha have been observed. The tanks required to bring the regiment up to authorized strength would have to be delivered in the course of March 1954 so as to enable the unit to conduct its summer training in the field. The obsolescent model SU-76 guns may be scheduled to be replaced by model SU-100 SP guns.

25X1 4. Comment. The model M 3 armored personnel carriers were recently delivered from the USSR. The model Bobby armored scout cars are probably type BA-64's.

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- 25X1 5. ☐ Comment. It is believed that all special units of an infantry regiment will henceforth wear the claret service color of the infantry. This applies also to members of the SP gun companies, signal companies, and engineer companies, who previously wore blue, yellow-bordered black, and blue-bordered black collar patches respectively. However, it is not impossible that special personnel of the administration and of the rear services will continue to wear their previous dark green service color, even when attached to regiments.
- 25X1 6. ☐ Comment. The data on the location of KVP schools in Erfurt agrees with previous information.
- 25X1 7. ☐ Comment. Soviet regulations have been in force since some time for the training of satellite armies. KVP training has been based on the Soviet manuals since 1951.

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